

Monday - September 25, 1978

We arose early this morning anxious to begin the day's events as our time here was precious. After breakfast, we walked out into Frau Schmidt's beautiful flower garden in front of the hotel. The roses were especially beautiful this morning, sparkling in the early morning dew. How special it was to meet with Paul and Margaret each morning and witness the love and concern they have for each other as a family. The eagerness and enthusiasm of the children as they decide whose turn it is to sit up front with Daddy and their patience in suppressing their preferences in order to make the day pleasant for everyone--it was a joy to witness. Many times I watched as Paul Jr. was the first one out of the motor coach waiting to help the ladies step down.

Arnold Kunz-Ritter met us at Oey Diemtigen. His wife, Lenny, and his father, Uncle Arnold, left early this morning to travel up the Pass in preparation for our visit to their upper dairy. We were disappointed when he told us the cows had come down from the upper dairy ten days ago.

There are two thousand people living in Diemtigen Valley; one-third are farmers. There are six thousand cattle grazing on the alps here in the summer. Each farmer pays F 250 for a two year old heifer to graze one hundred days on the alps. There are two million Semmental and brown Swiss cattle in Switzerland. Papers on pedigree cows go back two hundred and sixty years. Many Simmental cattle are exported throughout the world.

In 1912, the Kunzes exported twenty-five Simmental cows to a Russian Duke in Russia. Lydia Reiber waved as we passed her home in Narrenback, the show place of cattle country. Everywhere we looked in this valley, we could see Kunz homes and Kunz cattle. The mountain pasture is thirteen and one-half miles up the canyon road. The people pay one-third and the government pays two-thirds of road construction costs. Arnold said they used two horses to pack cheese and supplies to and